Restrictions on acquisition of tribal land

482. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are facing any problems created by acquisition of large areas of tribal land;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering of any restrictions to be imposed for acquisition of tribal land thereof?

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI) : (a) There is a considerably feeling of discontent among tribals on account of acquisition of large areas of their land. Government are faced with problems of satisfactory rehabilitation of tribals displaced from such acquisition. This has also created difficulties in speed, acquisition of land in tribal areas.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal at present under consideration to introduce any restrictions in the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 on acquisition of tribal land.

Assistance to Vijayanagar Steel Plant

483. SHRI D.B. CHANDRE GOWDA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister during his recent visit to Karnataka assured to reconsider the Vijayanagar Steel Plant;

(b) if so, what is the assurance given by Prime Minister in this regard; and

(c) the details thereof and the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The assurance given was that Government would reconsider the project afresh to see if it could be revived.

(c) Various alternative proposals are under formulation with a view to arriving at a viable project proposal.

Rise in the sugar prices

484. SHRI D.B. CHANDRE GOWDA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the free sale sugar prices in the country have sharply increased during the past few months;

(b) if so, whether despite Government's warning to the sugar industry and Indian Sugar Mills Association to keep the prices on control, there has been tremendous increase in the prices of sugar; and

(c) if so, what further action Government propose to take to bring down the prices of sugar in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir, the recent spurt in sugar prices is due to speculative tendencies in the market because of unexpected fall in sugar production this year. Government has taken various measures to control rise in sugar price which are given in the enclosed Statement.